HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS RESOURCE OFFICE TO SUPPORT VETERANS.

WHEREAS, there are more than two-thousand four hundred veterans enrolled across the ten campuses of the University of Hawaii System, comprising four per cent of the student body; and

WHEREAS, veterans provide a wealth of leadership, talent, expertise, and experience to classrooms and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, veterans can face unique challenges when integrating back into society, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, physical and mental disabilities, risk of suicide, and hypervigilance; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System does not have a dedicated office to address the educational needs of veterans and to encourage and recruit veterans to earn high quality degrees that will help them find rewarding employment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii is urged to establish a Veterans Resource Office and a Veterans Resource Center at each campus to support veterans in obtaining high quality degrees and to increase veteran enrollment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Veterans Resource Center is urged to:

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1 2 3 4	(1)	Conduct campus surveys of student veterans to identify the needs, address important issues, and collect suggestions of veterans;
5 6 7	(2)	Establish a campus steering committee consisting of student veterans, faculty, and staff to:
8 9 10 11		(A) Develop programs to establish or strengthen the veteran supportive campus program based on best practices; and
12 13		(B) Identify the needs of the student veterans;
14 15 16 17 18	(3)	Conduct sensitivity and awareness training for faculty and staff on military and veteran culture, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, physical and mental disabilities, suicide risks, and hypervigilance;
20 21 . 22	(4)	Conduct student veteran orientation programs, including student veteran guides for the first day of classes;
23 24 25	(5)	Establish peer mentoring and peer support programs for student veterans;
26 27 28	(6)	Establish an optional veterans-only course taught by a veteran or by a trained volunteer on veteran issues;
29 30 31	(7)	Develop and implement outreach strategies to local military bases;
32 33 34 35 36	(8)	Act as a comprehensive resource and study center for student veterans, their families, and student family members of the armed forces who are currently deployed on active duty;
37 38 39	(9)	Collaborate with the community to obtain support from private organizations;
40 41 42	(10)	Conduct career and job placement services for student veterans; and

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(11)Take other actions to support student veterans; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Veterans Resource Office is urged to offer a Veterans Supportive Campus certification to any campus that has successfully implemented and achieved the goals established by this Concurrent Resolution; an

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents; the President of the University of Hawaii System; and the Director of the State Office of Veterans' Services.

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OFFERED BY:

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